

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07761 011142Z

47

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8393

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CNO WASHDC

CSAF WASHDC

CSA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7761

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR, US

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S POLICY ON APPROVAL ON NEW

POSITIONS FOR OFFICIAL PERSONNEL IN IRAN

1. DURING RECENT DEFREP AND CHIEF, ARMISH-MAAG CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, QUESTION WAS APPARENTLY RAISED ABOUT MY POLICY ON ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PERSONNEL POSITIONS FOR CIVILIAN OR MILITARY ELEMENTS OF THIS MISSION. UNDERSTAND THERE WAS DISCUSSION WHETHER OR NOT ARBITRARY PERSONNEL CEILING HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED. I HOPE THAT FOLLOWING INFORMATION WILL HELP CLARIFY MY POLICY ON OFFICIAL PRESENCE.

2. NO FIXED CEILING HAS BEEN SET FOR NUMBER OF PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO ANY UNIT IN IRAN. INSTEAD, ANY PROPOSED INCREASE IN PERSONNEL STRENGTH MUST BE FORWARDED BY DEFREP OR CHIEF, ARMISH-MAAG, TO ME FOR APPROVAL. I REVIEW EACH PROPOSAL ON ITS MERITS AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE OR A DECISION FOR HANDLING REQUEST. IN THE PAST, CASES HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH MOST FREQUENTLY BY APPROVAL, SOMETIMES BY DISAPPROVAL AND OCCASIONALLY BY ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS, I.E., SUBSTITUTION OF TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 07761 011142Z

TO IRAN OR USE OF PRIVATE CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL.

REDUCTIONS IN ONE UNIT, E.G., AFRTS, ARE NOT TRANSFER-
ABLE TO OTHER UNITS (E.G., AIR FORCE SECTION) SEEKING
INCREASE, BUT DESIGNATION OF FUNCTIONS OF POSITIONS
MAY BE CHANGED WITHIN UNITS WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ME.
NO TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS OVER SIX MONTHS IN DURATION
ARE PERMITTED. SUCH DETAILS ARE CONSIDERED PCS AND
REQUIRE MY APPROVAL.

3. REQUESTS FOR INCREASE IN PERSONNEL NUMBERS SHOULD
BE ADDRESSED TO ME BEFORE DEFINITE PROPOSALS, E.G.,
LETTERS OF OFFER, ARE MADE TO IRANIANS. CARE SHOULD
BE EXERCISED THAT U.S. SERVICES DO NOT COMMIT THEMSELVES
TO THEIR IRANIAN COUNTERPARTS BEFORE MY APPROVAL IS
OBTAINED. THIS REVIEW AND DECISION IS NOT REPEAT NOT
PERFUNCTORY PROCESS.

4. WE BELIEVE THERE EXISTS REQUIREMENT FOR REGULAR,
RIGOROUS AND OBJECTIVE REVALIDATION OF ESTABLISHED
MILITARY POSITIONS. PERFORMANCE BY MILITARY COMMANDERS
IN AND OUTSIDE IRAN IN THIS REGARD IS UNEVEN. SOME
ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN AS AUSTERE AN ESTABLISHMENT AS
POSSIBLE; OTHERS ARE CONTENT WITH STATUS QUO. WE
THINK ARBITRARY CEILINGS A MISTAKEN WAY TO APPROACH
STAFFING PROBLEM, BUT WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT REGULAR
AND EXACTING REVIEWS OF REQUIREMENTS ARE ESSENTIAL IF
CEILINGS ARE NOT TO BECOME UNDESIRABLE TOOL OF
PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.

5. AS WE HAVE REQUESTED IN CABLES DURING PAST YEARS,
WE WOULD APPRECIATE ACTIVE WASHINGTON ASSISTANCE IN
HOLDING OUR OFFICIAL PRESENCE IN IRAN TO ABSOLUTE
MINIMUM NECESSARY TO PERFORM ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS HERE.
THE RECENT MANTEL/KEMP STAFDEL REPORT SAYS THAT THERE
ARE 25,000 AMERICANS IN IRAN NOW AND THAT THIS FIGURE
MAY DOUBLE BY 1980. THIS LATTER NUMBER WAS AN
ARMISH-MAAG PROJECTION SEVERAL YEARS AGO. I DO NOT
BELIEVE IT IS REALISTIC. SUCH AN INCREASE IS NOT IN
THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND I INTEND TO
HOLD DOWN THE GROWTH IN OFFICIAL PRESENCE UNLESS
INSTRUCTED TO THE CONTRARY.
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PAGE 03 TEHRAN 07761 011142Z

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